EDUCATION.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AT ELMIRA.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION—"UPPER SCHOOLS" AND OTHER TOPICS.

ELMIRA, Aug. 6.—Dr. McCosh's paper on "Upper Schools," read last night, was animatedly discussed this morning at the general meeting of the Educational Association by Dr. Tappen of Ohio, Dr. Wickersham of Pennsylvania, Dr. Daniel Reid of Missouri, Dr. Charles Hammond of Massachusetts, President Eliot of Harvard College, Prof. Atherton of Rutgers College, Dr. McCosh, and W. T. Harris of Missouri. The prevailing sentiment seemed to be that there is needed in this country a class of schools between the grammar schools and the colleges, and that there should be a heartier sympathy between the colleges and the common schools. In the afternoon, papers were read before the departments on "Classical Study," by Prof. Jaynes of Virginia; on "Arithmetic," by Prof. McVicar of Potsdam, N. Y.; on "Training Schools," by Miss Lathrop of Cincinnati; on "City Superintendency," by Mr. Doty of Michigan. A paper on "Western University Education," by Wm. G. Eliot of St. Louis, excited much discussion on account of his statements in regard to the manner of "working the West."

This evening a paper on the "Relation of the Government to Education" was read by Prof. Atherton of New-Jersey.

On Friday the Association will go on an excursion to Watkins Glen. The city is very full of strangers. The number of members present amounts to more than 1,500, and a noticeable feature of the Convention is the presence of a large number of teachers from the Southern States. Louisiana is well represented by W. G. Brown, colored Superintendent of Schools in that State. Missouri has a large number present; also Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Alabama.

COMMENCEMENT AT OBERLIN.

THE FORTIETH YEAR OF THE COLLEGE—MEETING OF THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE—PRESIDENT FAIRCHILD'S BACCALAUREATE—WOMEN GRADUATES.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

OBERLIN, O., Aug. 4.—Forty years ago Oberlin College was founded by the Rev. John J. Shipherd, who conceived the idea of establishing a manual-labor college, where the poor, if they had the will, could obtain an education by means of their own exertions. Five hundred acres of land, then covered with a dense forest, and more than a mile from any human habitation, were given as a site for the institution, and the labor of clearing began. Earnest and self-denying men cast in their lot with the founder, and with true missionary zeal devoted themselves to the work. Good people all over the land were bewailing the evils of intemperance and asking what could be done. Garrison had been driven from Baltimore and dragged through the streets of Boston because of his avowed hostility to Slavery. The colleges, anxious to secure Southern as well as Northern support, and patronage from all classes in the community, took no well defined position on the two pressing questions of the time, Slavery and intemperance. In some institutions, even, their discussion was not allowed. The men who founded Oberlin College had opinions on these subjects, and dared to adopt and maintain them to the end with the most resolute fidelity. Their heroism was an inspiration to noble natures in all the land. Students came in unexpected numbers. Men hopeful for humanity, like the late Lewis Tappan and his brother Arthur, espoused the institution and gave largely of their means for its support. The revolt in Lane Seminary not only brought to Oberlin such men as President Asa Mahan, Prof. John Morgan, and the late Rev. James A. Thorne, but transferred largely to the rising College the sympathies and the benefactions of those who were longing and laboring for reform in church, state, and society. The place took the name of the College. Oberlin grew. Students came in such numbers that there were no rooms for them to occupy. Slab shanties were extemporized. Freedom of discussion on all subjects pertaining to human well-being was not only permitted but encouraged. The co-education of the sexes was adopted, and the full college course of study opened to all without regard to sex. Another question arose. Should colored students be admitted? Here was a test question. The prejudice against color was strong, and well nigh blind. The college needed money. Thus far poverty and zeal constituted the sum total of the endowment fund. Could the enterprise be sustained, if to total abstinence, anti-Slavery, and college education for males and females in the same classes, education without regard to color or previous condition should be added? After a prolonged discussion, postponed from time to time, a vote was reached by the trustees, and it was a tie. The chairman, the late Rev. John Keep, promptly gave the casting vote in favor of the admission of colored students. Since that day of conflict and of victory, the catalogue of Oberlin College in all its departments has shown an average of about 1,000 students per annum, about equally divided between the sexes. Sometimes the list has exceeded 1,300 in number; for the last year the number in attendance is 1,246.

This week occurs the 40th Annual Commencement of the institution. The examinations in the various departments were completed last week. The Faculty report to the trustees that more and better work has been done by the students during the past year than in any preceding year. The health of the students has been good. No death has occurred among them. While the examinations were being held, a Theological Institute was in session, to which all the Alumni of the Theological Department, and clergymen generally, had been invited. The discussions related chiefly to the important and popular themes of Christian doctrine and practice; such as the duty of the Church in the temperance cause, the expediency of an itinerancy for the feebler churches, the forms and antidote of pantheism, the necessity of intellectual labor to an effective ministry, the claims of missionary work, and the propriety of so amending the United States Constitution as to recognize Christianity. The discussions were throughout animated and interesting, but particularly so in regard to the last topic. The opposition to any meddling with the Constitution as touching a recognition of any form of faith amounted almost to a protest. The proposition had but one or two advocates in the Institute.

On Sunday afternoon the Baccalaureate sermon was preached by President J. H. Fairchild, from the text, "By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil." How to prevent sin is the question of the ages. Men are greedy for happiness. Sin is the obstacle. Why not renounce the sin at once and forever? All apprehend these facts, but the knowledge is not enough. Some force from without is necessary. The soul of man is open to personal influence more than to abstract truth. Children live and breathe in the atmosphere of parental influence. Love restrains and overshadows, but does not oppress them, though the grave may hide the heart in which it glowed. How feeble in comparison is an idea, a mere abstraction. It may be clear, but it is also cold. These illustrations show the power that thoughts of God have over men. They have the power of example, embodying all excellence. He is our Father, we His children. There is motive power in a rational conviction; personal influence vivifies it. A child may know what is right, but "How shall I do this great wickedness and sin against God", has caused many a man to stop and think, and flee from evil. Love is the logic of the cross. Call it a dream, it has more power than all the dead facts in existence. Something to live for and something to die for is essential to exalted character. Being a co-worker together with God has power to redeem from low aims. But it is a moral power, and may be resisted. "To as many as received Him to them gave He power." God is the source of power by the force of His character. The value of prayer is largely in the relationship which it establishes between the soul and God. Many make God a power, a cold abstraction. We turn to our God forgiving sin. Over against this is a tendency to make God all kindness. But justice must go with kindness. He must be faithful as a father. Our sentimental philosophy is the reaction from a too stern theology. The achievements of modern science have been so startling, its results so grand, that Herbert Spencer is looking for a mode of being as much above ours as ours is above mere motion. This conflict will be short. The dust will soon clear away. Culture does not furnish the needed restraint. A noble life consecrated to noble aims comes with God. All can have this source of strength, few can be saved by culture, even if it could save any. Faith in God makes heroes. In this faith they can endure all things mentioned by Paul when he called the roll of the dead in that immortal chapter. In this fear of the Lord, all are equal, and we have a common foundation for responsibility and for society.

To-morrow some thirty ladies will graduate from the four years' course, and on Wednesday about as many from the College course.

NOTICE TO MARINERS—LOOK OUT FOR THE BALLOON.

From The Graphic.

The managers of *The Daily Graphic* would respectfully call the attention of navigators and all having command of vessels which may leave American ports during the coming month to the fact that it is intended that the transatlantic balloon expedition of Prof. Wise and Mr. Wm. H. Donaldson shall leave the City of New-York, for Europe, on some day late in August or early in September, which will hereafter be definitely announced. The balloon will carry two life-boats, and every part of the apparatus that is capable of being detached will be legibly inscribed with the words, "The Daily Graphic." Mariners are requested, in case any articles so marked are picked up by them, to ascertain the locality where found, that all necessary particulars may be published. During the progress of the balloon, the aeronauts will occasionally throw over in the night time torpedoes, which will explode on striking the water, for the purpose of marking the direction they are traversing. Note of these should also be made. In case the balloon gives out before it reaches land, the passengers will have recourse to the boats, in which emergency, it is hoped, they may be seen and rescued by any vessel passing near. The wide dissemination of the above notice will insure a watchfulness on the part of navigators that may result in saving human lives, and it is hoped that newspapers generally will give it prominent insertion in their columns.

GENERAL NOTES.

A Memphis man, 23 years old, is six inches shorter than Tom Thumb, and he is proud of it!

Chicago recently opened a newsboys' home and lodging-house, and it was filled to overflowing the first night.

The Baltimore millionaires are invited to purchase the burned district and present it to the city for a Central City Garden.

The Portland (Me.) papers say that the fishing fleets are all doing very well, and in consequence there is an active demand for salt.

Milwaukee has over $30,000 invested in steam fishing "smacks." The average "haul" is about one half a ton of fish to each "smack."

At Oakland, Cal., there has just been captured a newspaper-thieving dog. Over 100 papers were found behind a large pile of rubbish, where the dog had secreted them.

California has another headless rooster. This one is provided with a silver tube through which it is fed, and is an object of envy in the feathered flock of which it is a member.

The man (George S. Parrish) who was supposed to be the person found drowned in the river near Hartford, Conn., has turned up perfectly alive and ready to make affidavit that he has n't been drowned at all. It is an affecting circumstance that it was Parrish's mother-in-law who recognized in the remains fished up the lineaments of the missing Parrish, and swore with perfect freedom to their identity. Quilp's mother-in-law, it will be remembered, labored under a pleasant delusion somewhat similar.

There is a tame eagle in Pueblo, Colorado, a noble black fellow, belonging to the "gentlemanly" clerk of the Occidental Hotel. The proud bird flies about the city and vicinity at will, but with a sagacity which does him honor, he always comes home for his meals. In other respects he is a fowl of regular habits and is upon the domestic perch at an early hour of the night. His owner, who is very proud of him, has found it necessary to publish an advertisement entreating sportsmen not to shoot his pet.

The recent tendency of things to take fire in Boston is one of the phenomena of the time. On Thursday last there seemed to be a sort of spontaneous combustion of feather beds. Two alarms were given within twelve hours, both from the same box, caused by fires in the same street, and in each case there was a burning feather bed. There was nobody abed in either at the time; but if that sort of thing is to go on, in the name of Morpheus we ask if there is no scientific person who can give us a reasonably fire-proof feather bed.

There is at least one person in the world who believes that earthly treasures may be taken into another sphere. A diabolical Small Boy in Detroit sent a lighted kite up into the air the other evening, thereby arousing the wild fears of divers persons, who regarded the phenomenon they could not explain as a sign of the immediate dissolution of the world. Some of them were found praying on their knees in back yards, while the most frightened but provident of all was an elderly Hibernian cook, who instantly began to pack her trunk in furious haste.

"Is rum sold in Portland?" is a question which has not only agitated the whole of this country, but has also been warmly discussed by English meetings and in English newspapers. A correspondent of *The Portland Advertiser* thinks that he is justified in a belief which he bases upon his own personal observation, that now and then a wee drop is either given or sold in the Down East metropolis. He says that going into an eating-house for his breakfast at 8 o'clock in the morning, he encountered two drunken men. Mournful to relate, one of them was a Massachusetts Quaker, the first inebriated Friend whom the writer ever encountered. This unique specimen came out very strong in the line of profanity, which poured forth from under the shadow of a broad-brimmed hat, must have had an extremely piquant effect. Leaving the Quaker to swear and to sing at his pleasure, the writer went home and found a mason's tender employed there exceedingly drunk and minus his wheelbarrow. One of these conveniences was borrowed for him, but he was too much obfuscated to use, or even to remember of whom he borrowed it; and the writer had to show him the place. The correspondent does n't like to be rash, but he surmises that rum is sold in Portland, and that the shops in which it is sold must either open very early or not shut up at all.

SYMPATHY WITH BRITISH FARM-LABORERS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The English papers announce that Joseph Arch, President of the British Agricultural Laborers' Union, will land in this city in the present month. His business in America will be to ascertain for himself whether or not it affords eligibility for the more numerous immigration of English agricultural laborers, whose condition in their own country is, as all your readers are aware, at present so lamentable. I would respectfully submit to the citizens of New-York the propriety of giving this man a public welcome, affording to him the opportunity of representing the dimensions which the agitation he is leading has attained, and themselves the opportunity of hearing a natural orator and an honest man. Arch is at the head of an organization which comprises scores of thousands of members, and which has been highly useful to many of them in raising their wages, and which aims at placing 600,000 persons on the level of men and citizens. Probably for years to come—so powerful is conservatism with respect to the land laws in England—the unsatisfactory condition of which is the radical cause of the laborer's degradation—the elevation of the individual farm-servant can only be effected by his removal to a new country where his services are more needed. The advantages to this country which must succeed the advent of skilled farm-servants in large numbers are apparent. I do not now suggest any plan of welcome. There will be time for this when, as I believe it will, my note has elicited the response due to the importance of the subject treated. H. G. T.

Brooklyn, Aug. 5, 1873.

THE RORKE CONSPIRACY CASE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: My attention has been drawn to an article headed "Alleged Conspiracy Against Importers," published in your paper of the 30th ult. As my character is seriously affected by the statements contained therein I respectfully request a place in your columns for this communication. I shall take up and answer categorically the charges relating to me personally, leaving other persons to speak for themselves if they deem it necessary.

I. "Nearly a year ago the members of the firm went to England, leaving a clerk named Clark in charge of the business here." This is untrue. The members of the firm did not go to England a year ago, nor did they leave "a clerk named Clark" in charge of their business. Two members of the firm went to Europe last year, but James Rorke, the active partner, remained in New-York, had charge of the foreign invoices, and attended to the Custom-house business as usual.

II. "It is alleged that the charges for transportation were altered by Clark to a sufficient extent to defraud the Government out of about $150 on a total shipment of $30,000 worth of goods, and these false invoices were presented at the Custom-house, while the real charges were entered in red ink in the invoice book in the store." This statement is plainly false. As it is my intention in due time to vindicate myself in the courts, I shall say nothing of this charge, except that its author will be afforded every opportunity to substantiate it.

III. "After a sufficient number of these entries had been made to make out a good case against the firm, Clark pretended to his employers that it would be necessary for him to leave the city." This statement can be met by the assertion that I pretended nothing whatsoever to my employers. I was under no obligation to them to pretend or to promise. Our relations were strictly of a business nature, and if they have committed the shameful indecency of endeavoring to drag my domestic affairs before the public, they are of course prepared to assume the responsibility and meet the consequences.

IV. "It is charged by the firm that Clark communicated with Special Agent Jayne, and obtained from the latter a written agreement that he was to receive one-quarter of the sum obtained from the firm." This, like the other charges, is unqualifiedly false—evidently so, I should judge, from the fact that your reporter, in noting it down, says that it is not generally credited.

Having thus replied to the charges affecting me, let me state that the attempt to make me a scape-goat in this business will inevitably fail. If this firm deem that their reputation is endangered they had better employ other means to preserve it than the destruction of my character. Though I am poor and uninfluential, I presume I can claim the protection of the law, which, theoretically at least, is not a respecter of persons, or a cringer to wealth and position. In my struggle for existence my only capital is my character, and I mean to defend and preserve it from all assaults, no matter from what direction they may proceed. I cannot afford to be pilloried in the public press as a falsifier of accounts and a faithless servant, when the fact is that I have been neither the one nor the other. As a matter of justice I ask you to publish this. The original authors of the slander will be answered in the manner best calculated to vindicate me and to teach them a useful lesson. EDWD. W. CLARKE.

New-York, Aug. 6, 1873.

CATHOLIC AND ROMAN CATHOLIC.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: What do you mean by "the Catholic Church" in your article this morning? I am a member of the Catholic Church, and am proud of my membership, in common with hundreds of thousands, as opposed to the pretensions of Romanism as you are or can be. As such, I feel it to be an outrage and insult to all non-Roman Catholics to persist in calling that the Catholic Church. You may point me to a dictionary (Webster's) written by a provincial Yankee, and revised by his Congregational successors, as authority for prostituting the word Catholic; but that word is the heritage of the whole Christian world—the name of the universal Church of God; and I beg of you to cease ascribing it to the Romanist sect. Why not call the body Roman Catholic? Very truly yours, H. D. JARDINE.

Long Branch, N. J., Aug. 4, 1873.

BROOKLYN'S GROWTH.

PHASES OF THE ANNEXATION PROBLEM.

ORIGIN OF THE MOVEMENT—PROPOSED BRINGING OF ALL KINGS COUNTY UNDER THE BROOKLYN CHARTER—VIEWS OF PROMINENT CITIZENS—PROBABLE STRONG OPPOSITION OF THE TOWNS.

A case parallel to that of the annexation of portions of Westchester County to this city is the question of the consolidation of the whole of Kings County into one city, which was brought up for action during the session of the last Legislature. That body went so far as to authorize the appointment of a commission for inquiring into the matter, and for devising a plan by which it could be accomplished. The idea of consolidation was not a very novel one, for it had long been felt by many of the residents and property owners of Brooklyn that the city line was an arbitrary rather than real limit of the city's population. The contraction of the city within its boundaries was also considered as of more than doubtful utility, and as having a tendency to check growth and development. Moreover, the depreciated value of property on the outside of the line, as compared with the greatly increased and constantly increasing values within that boundary, together with the local jealousies arising from this and other causes, have produced a feeling of irritation which it was important to assuage. Besides, the extension to the country towns of Kings County of the advantages possessed by a city, such as the introduction and distribution of gas, water, and sewerage, well-graded and regulated streets, a thorough public school system, &c., would go far toward turning thither a large portion of the stream of population from New-York to the suburbs which is now drawn to the various towns of New-Jersey and into Westchester County. The matter had been agitated for the past seven or eight years, but no real, definite action had been taken until during the last session of the State Legislature, when a special act was passed providing for the settlement of the question by an appeal to the people at the next general election. The act requires the appointment by the Mayor of six Commissioners for Brooklyn and the appointment by the Board of Supervisors of five for the country towns, one for each town. The first meeting of the Commissioners is to be held in the Chamber of the Board of Supervisors of the City of Brooklyn on Aug. 11. The Commissioners are invested with power to send for persons and papers, and their duty will be to devise an equitable plan of consolidating the towns of New-Lots, Flatbush, New-Utrecht, Flatlands, and Gravesend with the City of Brooklyn, the whole to be under the latter title. As soon as a plan shall have been agreed upon by a two-thirds vote the Commissioners are to have it submitted to the people at the next general election in the county, at which they are to provide separate ballots and ballot-boxes for the purposes of the vote. After the election the Commissioners are to meet and count the ballots, and if it shall be found that a majority of town and of Brooklyn votes favor annexation, then the Commissioners are to prepare a law in conformity with the plan approved by the people, and to submit the same to the next Legislature, which shall finally decide the question.

The great object of the movement is to simplify the government of the county, which has an area of 52 square miles and contains, according to the census of 1870, a population of 419,921. Its proportionate growth has been more marvelous than even that of New-York, especially within the past 40 or 50 years. Previous to that period its growth was not so marked. The following table shows the increase of population in Kings and New-York Counties, respectively, since 1790:

POPULATION OF KINGS AND NEW-YORK COUNTIES.

Date of Census.	Kings Co. population.	N. Y. Co. population.	Date of Census.	Kings Co. population.	N. Y. Co. population.
1790	4,495	33,131	1840	47,613	312,710
1800	5,740	60,515	1850	138,882	515,547
1810	8,303	96,373	1860	279,122	813,669
1820	11,187	123,706	1870	419,921	942,292
1830	20,535	202,589			

The proportion of the population of the county in the City of Brooklyn, as compared with that in the country towns for the past 20 years is as follows:

	Brooklyn.	Co. towns.		Brooklyn.	Co. towns.
1850	94,414	44,468	1870	396,099	23,822
1860	262,348	6,774			

The remarkable falling off in the population of the county towns in 1860 was owing to the fact that Williamsburgh and Bushwick, the two largest of these towns were in 1854 incorporated with Brooklyn, and their population thus combined with that of Brooklyn, in the census of 1860. But the county towns show a very marked increase in population between 1860 and 1870, amounting as may be seen from the table to more than 350 per cent. In spite of this fact their importance is very slight as compared with the City of Brooklyn. The county towns as a general rule are believe by many to entertain a violent opposition to annexation. New-Lots and Flatlands, it is expected, will vote in favor of the measure while the stand which the other towns will take is to say the least rather doubtful.

VIEWS OF RESIDENTS.

A well known and prominent real estate lawyer of Brooklyn gave the following statement and figures in reference to the annexation problem to a TRIBUNE reporter:

Kings County with its 52 square miles of area, considering 640 acres to the square mile, 12 lots to the acre, and five persons to each lot and house thereon, will contain, when fully built up, 2,048,800 inhabitants. Take off the parks and other public grounds, and allow one lot in 10 to remain vacant, and the county will then only contain 1,500,000. Referring to the real estate question involved in annexation, the informant stated that there are few lots in Brooklyn not built on, excepting those in holes or on hills which can be bought for $600 each, and upwards, and these lie well out towards East New-York as far from the ferries as a part of the lands in the towns where lots can be bought for from $75 to $250 each. People will not go into the towns to live on account of the absence of water, gas, sewerage, a police force, and other advantages. Hence the towns, for the want of these, are not built up, and lots are cheap and will remain so until these can be procured. The idea of annexation has been more or less agitated for for seven or eight years past. If rapid transit becomes a reality, as it undoubtedly will in a short time, a population of 15,000 or 20,000 per year could be carried thither which now goes to New-Jersey and Westchester County. The movement would open up the best field for the laboring classes and all persons with an income of $1,800 or less, where they could have cheap homes. New-Jersey lands situated from 15 to 20 miles from New-York are now selling at from $600 to $1,200 per acre, while lands in the towns of Kings County only from five to eight miles from New-York, with proper means of transit taking only one-half the time to reach them, can be bought at the same prices. If the City Hall of New-York be taken as the center of business of New-York and vicinity, then, other things being equal, the lands nearest that center should be most valuable.

Another point in favor of the consolidation of Brooklyn with the towns would be simplification of government. At present the towns have each a seperate government, with town expenses, and with Brooklyn constitute a county government with a set of county officers and expenses, while Brooklyn has a seperate set of officers and expenses. The consolidation of the towns and city into one city will do away with town expenses and county expenses, as well as the conflicts, jealousies, and rivalries of the different officers. The towns will gain largely by the increase of population which they will thereby secure, and the consequent more rapid advance in the value of their lands. They will, in short, gain all the advantages of a city. The city will also gain by having opened up a large amount of cheaper lots, without which it cannot accommodate at low figures the natural increase in the population.

Edmund Driggs, one of the Commissioners appointed by Mayor Powell in behalf of Brooklyn, after stating the provisions of the act, said that, in case annexation was decided on, the leading avenues of Brooklyn would be extended across the island, Broadway would run to Rockaway Bay, and Bedford-ave. and other prominent thoroughfares would traverse the county, forming a series of beautiful drives. These improvements would greatly enhance the value of property. If the city should grow in the future as it has done in the past, and there seemed no reason to doubt this, it would, and very soon, too, extend beyond its present limits. Portions of land would be added with roads laid out entirely without reference to the streets of the city, which would produce great irregularities. It would be, in other words, a wise provision for the future to annex the towns of the county. All the county towns have been indirectly, and most of them directly, benefited by the improvements made to Brooklyn, but have borne none of the expenses. In illustration, Mr. Driggs instanced the Prospect Park improvement. A great portion of the park lies in Flatbush, where property has been increased five-fold in value thereby, yet the property-owners there have paid nothing for the advantage, the town being exempt from taxation for the purpose. Brooklyn taxpayers have in reality, paid millions of dollars for what is of decided benefit to Flatbush, and which has cost the latter nothing.

On the other hand, the opponents of the consolidation scheme say that it is merely an attempt to foist upon the towns a good portion of the taxes of Brooklyn, and to furnish a new support for pavement, sewer, and other jobs. They say that it is favored by speculators who have purchased property just outside of the city line for such an emergency. The opponents are mainly from the smaller towns, and are perfectly willing to let their farms lie just as they are, without much improvement and without much consequent taxation. They seem to be determined in their opposition, and will no doubt make a strong fight against the movement. What the upshot of the matter will be, few are willing to venture an opinion.

GLANCES AT CRIME.

SUSPECTED CASE OF ABORTION.

Coroner Herrman was informed yesterday that Sarah M. Bancker, age 18, had died suddenly at One-hundred-and-twenty-fourth-st. and Seventh-ave., and that a burial permit had been applied for under the certificate of Dr. Quick of One-hundred-and-twenty-seventh-st., that she had died of acute throat disease. Coroner Herrman accompanied by his deputy, Dr. Cushman, went to the house and was admitted by the husband of the deceased, Dr. W. W. Bancker. In reply to the Coroner's inquiries, Dr. Bancker stated that his wife was taken sick about a fortnight ago. After treating her for a few days he had called in Dr. Quick, who had taken care of her up to the moment of her death. Dr. Cushman then began an autopsy, and to his great surprise did not find any marks in the throat that would indicate that she had died of laryngitis. The lungs also were in a healthy condition and the heart. Upon opening the womb he discovered evidence that a fœtus of between four and five months in age had been discharged within the four days previous to her death. There was no evidence, however, of the abortion having been performed with instruments. Dr. Bancker denied all knowledge of his wife's condition, although he acknowledged that she had complained of suffering from internal disease for a month before her death. Dr. Quick was summoned and informed of Dr. Cushman's discovery. He replied that he had suspected that the deceased was pregnant, but that Dr. Bancker had said nothing to him about her condition. Coroner Herrman deemed it his duty to have Dr. Bancker arrested and held to await the result of an inquest. Meantime the stomach of the deceased will be analyzed by Dr. Endemann, chemist of the Board of Health, as it is suspected that drugs were used.

BROOKLYN LAWLESSNESS.

Patrick Gilmartin keeps a saloon at State and Furman-sts., Brooklyn, a neighborhood infested by lawless gangs of men who work at times on the Atlantic and other docks. On last Sunday morning Gilmartin was putting up his saloon shutters, when a gang of five men, who were partly intoxicated, came up and demanded admittance. He was afraid to deny their demand, and accordingly let them in, remarking as he did so that they might get one drink around, when he would shut up his saloon. Once inside the gang locked the door, and, turning on Gilmartin, knocked him down, beat him with bricks which they carried in their pockets, and robbed him of $435 which was found in one of his pockets. A stranger who was in the saloon endeavored to assist the saloon-keeper, but the gang beat him also, and then fled. The police were informed on Monday, and an interview was had with Gilmartin, who is confined to his bed by the injuries received. He states that he can identify three of the gang who robbed him, and that their names are Moses O'Neil, Michael Glen, and Patrick Smith, who are known as members of the South Ferry gang. They had arranged for a picnic, which took place on Tuesday, and, being short of money, concluded to rob Gilmartin, whom they had seen counting a roll of bills on Saturday night.

THE MURDERED STRANGER IDENTIFIED.

The body of the man who was murdered at Prince and Greene-sts., on Monday night, was identified at the Morgue, yesterday, as that of Andrew Gergan, a fireman of the steamer Providence of the Fall River line. John Armstrong, another fireman of the same steamer, identified the body, and informed Capt. Williams of the Eighth Precinct Police that the deceased had a wife and several children in Liverpool, Eng. He had been working on the Providence only four days, when he disappeared, and his previous history was therefore unknown. One of the deck-hands of the Providence said that the deceased had told him that he had a sister residing in East Ninth-st. in this city. This woman the police are anxious to find. One of the persons accused of the murder, Charles Cobern, was committed to the Tombs on Coroner Young's warrant to await the inquest, which will be held to-morrow.

A POLICEMAN BADLY WOUNDED.

As patrolman Robert Lamble of the Thirty-second Precinct was patrolling Eighth-ave., near One-hundred-and-forty-seventh-st., on Friday night, an unknown man fired a stone at him which, striking his forehead, knocked him senseless. A stranger walking up the street almost stumbled over the body of the insensible officer, and, upon discovering his condition, shouted loudly for assistance. Patrolman Gilien heard the shouts and hastened to the spot. With the help of the stranger Gilien then carried Lamble to his home. Police Surgeon Farrington examined Lamble and found that he had received a severe concussion of the brain. Capt. Wilson reported the case to the Police Commissioners, yesterday, and stated that Lamble was in a very dangerous condition. The police have not yet discovered who it was that fired the stone at the officer.

ARREST OF GAMBLERS.

Detectives Tully, Dilks, and Walling, entered a room on the second floor of No. 113 Chatham-st., yesterday, and there arrested 10 persons on a charge of carrying on a gaming saloon. It has been the custom of the persons occupying the room to entice into it emigrants and strangers to the city, and by means of a pretended game of rouge et noir, to defraud them of their money. The prisoners were taken to Police Headquarters, where they gave the following names: Charles Bender, John Swartz, Emanuel Schultz, Charles Bernard, Richard Klotzen, Herman Meyer, Henry Miller, Charles Gumph, George Brown, and George Kaiser. A complaint will be preferred against them by Charles A. Bottiger, who lost $16 in the den. The prisoners will be brought before Justice Hogan, at the Tombs Police Court, to-day.

RAILROAD INTERESTS.

A DIRECT LINE BETWEEN HALIFAX AND NEW-YORK.

It is stated that a very important railroad combination is to be consummated in a few days, resulting in a direct line, under a single management, between Halifax, Boston, New-York, and all the principal American cities of the South and West. The Pennsylvania Central is chief in the movement, and all the intervening roads between Boston and Halifax, it is alleged, are to be absorbed by that corporation. A large party of railroad officials interested in the combination left Boston on Monday on a tour of inspection of the line, and their journey will not end this side of Halifax or Prince Edward's Island. The party included the directors of the Eastern Railroad, some of the directors of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, and others. Along the route they will be joined by directors of the Maine Central Railroad. They will also go to St. John, N. B., over the European and North American Railway, the officers of which will accompany them, and thence they will extend their trip the following day to Halifax, via the European and North American Railway and the Nova Scotia Railway. The object of the tour is partly one of observation, and to this will be added the consummation of the proposed consolidation of the Eastern Maine Central and European and North American Roads by the signing of the contracts between them. The presence of the Pennsylvania Central people is regarded as significant. Through trains between Halifax, Boston, and New-York will run at an early day.

THE RIGHT OF STATES TO TAX FREIGHT.

The following points of a decision by the Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of the Reading Railroad Company against Pennsylvania, will interest all connected with railroad transportation:

1. The transportation of freight, or of the subjects of commerce, is a constitutional part of commerce itself.

2. A tax upon freight, transported from State to State, is a regulation of commerce among the States.

3. Whenever the subjects, in regard to which a power to regulate commerce is asserted, are in their nature national, or admit of one uniform system or plan of regulation, they are exclusively within the regulating control of Congress.

4. Transportation of passengers or merchandise through a State, or from one State to another, is of this nature.

5. Hence a statute of a State imposing a tax upon freight, taken up within the State and carried out of it, or taken up without a State and brought within it, is repugnant to that provision of the Constitution of the United States, which ordains that "Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes."

RAILROAD NOTES.

It is stated that the railroad and other property on which the first mortgage of the Montgomery and Mobile Railroad Company rested has passed into the hands of the trustees, P. C. Calhoun and T. H. Potter of New-York, and Josiah Morris of Montgomery, through default in paying the interest on the bonds indorsed by the State for $2,500,000. The delivery of the property was not resisted, as the terms of the mortgage were imperative. The bondholders of the State have made no demand for the interest in default, and it is understood that they will look to the mortgage for indemnity.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company has applied to United States Judge Dundy of Omaha for an injunction to prevent the collection of taxes levied by State authority on land granted in aid of the construction of its roads, and a temporary injunction has been granted. The application is based on a decision of the United States Supreme Court in a similar case, in which the Kansas Pacific Railroad Company was concerned, in which such lands were held not taxable, first, because the road had not at that time carried out all the requirements of the grant, and, second, because the power of State taxation would defeat the right of the United States to require such lands to be sold at $1 25 per acre after three years from the completion of the road.

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

MONEY THROWN AWAY IN THE STREETS.

ASPHALT PAVEMENTS EVEN LESS DURABLE THAN WOODEN ONES—ORIGINAL COST OF THE CONCRETE AND WOODEN PAVEMENTS, AND THE OUTLAY FOR REPAIRS.

The interest in the subject of the street pavements of the city is still maintained. Persons are daily filing complaints in the Street Bureau of the Department of Public Works, asking that repairs be made in localities adjacent to their dwellings. The Health Board is also in receipt of numerous petitions, beseeching it to take action in the matter of purifying the roadways from the odors generated by stagnant water lying in the depressions of the decaying wooden and dissolving plaster pavements. From the assessment lists and Surveyor's returns, embracing the kind of patent pavements laid in the city, it appears that, with two exceptions, the Fisk Concrete Paving Company received contracts for laying asphalt pavements in the streets of the city. The Nicolson Paving Company were favored in the matter of wooden pavements, and the Fisk Concrete Paving Company in that of asphalt pavements. An examination of the condition of the latter shows that they are even less durable than the wooden pavements. Mr. Tracy, Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works, states that the cause of the rapid wearing away is to be found in the fact that instead of asphalt being used as a principal ingredient, as is represented, the residuum of petroleum, charcoal dust, peat, and other substances have been employed. These materials, under the excessive cold of last Winter, have hardened and crumbled, and under the heat of Summer some have yielded to the pressure of wheels, and deep ruts have been worn in the pavements. The two streets on which concrete pavements other than the Fisk have been laid are Howard-st., from Broadway to Mercer-st., paved in 1870, and Eleventh-st., from University-place to Sixth-ave., also paved in 1870. The former cost $3,973 60. Two-thirds of the cobble-stones upon which the pavement was laid are now exposed to view, and the remainder of the street is broken up with ruts and deep holes. To repair this street properly, 590 square yards will have to be relaid, and this will cost about $1,770. Eleventh-st. cost $24,207 12. The street is badly cut up and full of holes, some of which are six inches in depth. It is rougher throughout its entire length than the worse cobble-stone pavement. To repair this street properly, 4,803 square yards will have to be relaid, which will cost nearly $15,000.

The following table shows the condition of the streets where the Fisk Concrete Pavement has been laid, the original cost of paving, the number of square yards needing repair, and what it will cost to do the work:

STREETS IN WHICH THE FISK CONCRETE IS LAID.

Location.	Year when laid.	Cost to date.	No. yards needing repairs.	Estimated cost of repairs.
124th-st.	1868	$12,553 83	4,000	$12,000
122d-st.	1869	9,345 28	1,000	3,000
123d-st.	1869	9,327 36	1,200	3,600
129th-st.	1869	50,006 68	6,200	18,600
35th-st.	1870	47,471 50	9,100	27,300
39th-st., 3d to Lex.-ave.	1869	5,313 10	800	2,400
40th-st.	1869	4,475 31	862	2,586
39th-st., 6th to 7th-aves.	1869	15,738 32	2,610	7,830
38th-st.	1869	5,352 00	220	660
*36th-st.	1869	9,417 34	.....	.....
a31st-st.	1869	25,975 19	860	2,580
a22d-st.	1869	45,724 61	4,200	12,600
a21st-st.	1869	19,753 56	860	2,580
18th-st.	1869	20,749 94	5,000	15,000
a17th-st.	1869	40,044 45	400	1,200
9th-st.	1869	16,402 40	200	600
4th-st.	1869	15,776 70	3,500	10,500
b5th-ave.	1869	134,050 23	.....	.....
Total Fisk concrete		$487,477 80	41,012	$123,036
Seely concrete as above		28,180 72	3,200	9,600
Total concrete pavements in streets of the city		$515,658 52	44,212	$132,636
Add total wooden pavements (in Tuesday's TRIBUNE)		$2,241,449 17	17,863	53,589
Total wooden and concrete pavements in streets of the city		$2,757,117 69	62,075	$186,225

* This street has been repaved with Belgian blocks.

a Streets which have been partly repaved with stone.

b This pavement has been partly removed, leaving the Belgian upon which it was laid exposed.

Other kinds of asphalt pavements than those mentioned above are laid in the different parks of the city, and their present condition depends entirely upon the amount of travel to which they have been subjected. Little heavy traffic finds its way through these parks, and consequently the pavements have not worn out as rapidly as those in the streets of the city. The City Hall Park is laid with three kinds of asphalt pavement, and as this park is used more than any of the others, more evidence of wear and decay is afforded. The plaza in front of the City Hall is covered with the Sharf pavement, the paths are laid with the Fisk concrete, and the roadway across the south end with the Schelinger pave. The latter is more used than the others, on account of the additional traffic which seeks a passage-way across the Park, but presents the best appearance at present. The Scharf pavement is full of ruts, and yields to every pressure of the foot. Union-square is covered with the Neuchatel pavement, which is in poor condition. Madison-square and the Battery-square are paved with the Schelinger pavement, which is in fair condition. The paths of Washington-square are composed of the Day vulcanite pavement, and present some evidence of wear. Reservoir-square is paved with the Grahamite asphalt pavement, with which the Fisk concrete on Thirty-eighth-st. between Fifth and Madison-aves. has been repaired. The Grahamite pavement also surrounds the Worth Monument, and has withstood the action of the elements during both Winter and Summer, and now affords a good foothold for horses. The last report made by the Department of Parks shows that it is dissatisfied with the stability of these pavements, except the last named, even on the pleasure grounds of the city.

MUNICIPAL INTERESTS.

THE ARBITRARY ASSESSMENTS.

A most aggravated case of increased assessment in up-town property came to light yesterday. It was that of Patrick Callaghan, a lawyer, and owner of considerable property. He complained against the increase of assessed valuation on lots owned by him in Eighty-second, Eighty-third, and Eighty-fourth-sts. Last year he was assessed $51,467, while this year the assessment was increased to $154,100, or nearly 300 per cent. The assessment on one of the three lots was increased last year $800, and this year $4,000, the rate of increase being thus enlarged 500 per cent. In addition to this, he complained that he was taxed $56,477 for Riverside Park and the Public Drive. The others who objected to the increase were Abraham Lewis, Thomas Maher, Jeremiah Dowd, Wm. Forsythe, Thomas Jerod, William M. Leroy, Jas. Rigard, and Phillip Tuomey.

In consequence of the great interest which has been manifested by property-holders throughout the city in the subject of increased and arbitrary assessments, as brought out by the investigation into the complaints of Twelfth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-second Ward property-owners, it has been decided to ask the Supervisors at their next meeting, on Sept. 11, to grant an extension of power to the Investigating Committee, so that complainants from all parts of the city may have a hearing. The Chairman of the Committee, Alderman Koch, expressed the opinion yesterday that the assessments as laid down can be lawfully changed. He stated that the books have not been confirmed by the Board of Supervisors, and believes that no law can compel them to approve of and confirm what he termed "manifest and outrageous frauds" on tax-payers. The Committee will continue to hear complaints to-day.

THE PARK COMMISSIONERS.

At a meeting of the Park Commissioners, yesterday, six bids were opened for work on the wall around Central Park; two bids for building an iron railing at Union-square; three bids for a base stone on the Eighth-ave. wall at Central Park, and four bids for ashlar and coping for the same wall. The awards will be announced to-day. A number of reports of the landscape architect on different subjects relating to the parks were presented, and a report of the proceedings of the Department for the last three months was adopted and directed to be sent to the Mayor, as the new charter requires. It was decided not to set apart a portion of Central Park for athletic purposes. Bills amounting to $10,309 30 were audited and directed to be sent to the Finance Department. The President was authorized to draw from the Trust Company $5,323 92, part of the proceeds recently realized from the sale of Kingsbridge bonds, and to apply the same to the payment of the topographical force engaged in laying out the town of Kingsbridge. Permission was given to W. Maddox to address a public meeting from the platform of the plaza at Union-square. The meeting finally adjourned until 9 a. m. to-day.

BEAUTIES OF THE FINANCE SYSTEM.

A deputation from the large-pipe men on the Tenth-ave. Aqueduct extension, called again upon Commissioner Van Nort, yesterday, and stated that the explanation given on the previous day by the Commissioner and Controller Green were so conflicting and unsatisfactory that they desired to know explicitly why they had not received their pay. Commissioner Van Nort stated that their pay-roll was sent to the Finance Department on July 19, and that on July 21 the Controller acknowledged its receipt, and stated that a requisition for an issue of stock was necessary. On July 23 the Commissioner of Public Works made requisition in time for the meeting of the Board of Apportionment, and on July 24 the Controller acknowledged the receipt of the requisition, but stated that it came too late for the meeting. The Commissioner added, that there was no excuse for the delay, and stated that it was now 12 days since the Controller acknowledged the receipt of the requisition, and he had made no move to have the stock issued or the men paid. The delegation then left, having been assured by the Commissioner that he would do everything in his power to have their money paid promptly.

TRIUMPH OVER THE GAS MONOPOLY.

Under an arrangement with Commissioner Van Nort of the Department of Public Works, and at his earnest request, all the gas companies furnishing gas for public lamps have at last sent in their bills for lighting the public lamps for the year 1872, at the reduced rates of $42 50 per annum for each lamp from January 1 to July 31, and $39 per annum from and after August 1, 1872, when the Government tax on gas had ceased. This makes a reduction of $183,045 18 in the cost of gas for public lamps as compared with the year 1871, the bills for which are still unpaid and are before the courts for adjudication.

THE HARBOR MASTERS EXONERATED.

CAPT. SEAMAN DISMISSES THE COMPLAINTS AGAINST FROST AND JOHNSON.

The complaints against Harbor Masters Frost and Johnson have been dismissed by Capt. Seaman, and the testimony with the decision was sent yesterday to Gov. Dix for his consideration. An abstract of the testimony will be found below:

The stevedore, Seeley, said that he willfully violated the orders of Capt. Frost in disposing of berths, and told Capt. Winchester, who preferred the charges, that he would be put at Pier No. 15 if he would grant the towing. Winchester did this for a consideration, but not for a pecuniary one. The witness also stated that the towing was done by Capt. Jacob Henious, and in reply to Capt. Seaman said "he did not know that Capt. Jake's boat was known as the Harbor Masters' boat, or of any other boat so called, though it was so under the old regime." Seeley, when asked if he had given away the towing of vessels that came in, replied, "I can't tell."

D. R. Norell, Secretary of the Shipowners' Association, was next examined as to the reputation of Capt. Frost among the merchants. Capt. Jacob Henious, the tow-boat agent, testified that Seeley introduced him to Capt. J. H. Winchester. In reply to Capt. Tucker's question whether he had ever made any bargain with Mr. Frost or any other harbor master to do the towing, he said, "No sir, not with any of the present Board of Harbor Masters."

The basis of the complaint against Harbor Master Johnson was contained in a letter to Capt. Seaman over the signatures of Gibbs & Co. and Alfred Dutch & Son, marked "Exhibit B." Alfred Dutch, sr., on examination, refused to make oath to it as true, but made the following affidavit:

Some time in the latter part of May, 1873, I accidentally met Capt. H. W. Johnson (Harbor Master) in Wall-st., and while in conversation with him regarding towing, he made the following statement: "I did send a boat for the bark St. Ursula, and did it every day or as often as I wanted a vessel, and didn't care a d—n for anybody." He also said he would kill any tow-boat man who did not do as he wanted.

Alfred Dutch said that he had no direct proof that Harbor Master Johnson was associated with Messrs. Morton & Crary in the towing business, and was unwilling to swear or bring proof that Capt. Johnson had interested himself in tow-boats. A number of other witnesses were examined, but nothing was elicited which would substantiate the charges made. Capt. Johnson was examined by Capt. Seaman and denied the charges against him. Petitions in behalf of Harbor Masters Frost and Johnson, signed by a number of the shipping merchants of South-st., were sent to Capt. Seaman, but not used at the investigation or sent to the Governor.

THE DEAN RICHMOND COLLISION.

The decision as to the causes of the recent collision on the North River between the steamer Dean Richmond and the ferry-boat John Darcey has been reached and is now in the hands of Supervising Inspector Low. The collision occurred at Pier No. 41, N. R., on the morning of May 9. Several passengers on board the Richmond were injured, but none fatally, and both vessels were somewhat damaged. The investigation was conducted by Inspectors Simonson and Matthews, and full testimony on both sides was taken. The substance of the decision just rendered is as follows:

Upon a full and careful examination and consideration of all the evidence in the case we have concluded that a misunderstanding between the pilots of the two boats as to the movements contemplated by each rendered the collision unavoidable. Both vessels had been duly inspected, were properly officered and equipped, and were in all respects in strict compliance with the requirements of the law.

The delay in opening the investigation was caused by the lack of a legally constituted Board.

THE COURTS.

THE HAVANA BANK ROBBERY.

A FRANK ADMISSION OF THE ACT.

The Spaniards, Antonio Quero Y. Alvarez and Enrique Caceres, arrested on the arrival of the steamship City of Mexico, for the robbery of $70,000 in gold and bills of exchange from the Commercial Bank of Havana, were taken from the First Police Precinct in Brooklyn yesterday morning, and arraigned for examination before Judge McCue, on whose warrant they had been taken into custody. Assistant-District Attorney Cullen appeared for the prosecution, James B. Craig for the Bank of Havana and Louis Mayani of the Spanish Consul's staff, acted as interpreter for the prisoners who were without counsel. The latter are both good types of the Spanish nationality, are under 30 years of age, and appear to be very intelligent. Alvarez was secretary of the bank and Caceres was in the Government employ. Their two female companions were both in court and attracted considerable attention.

Judge McCue informed the men, through the interpreter, that they were under arrest upon a charge of having stolen gold coin and bills of exchange, the property of the Commercial Bank of Havana, of the value of $70,000. Their answer was that they could not deny the charge. The Judge then informed them that they could have an examination at once or waive it and await the action of the Grand Jury. Caceres thought that it would be shorter to have his case settled at once, but Judge McCue decided that they had better waive examination and go to jail. The prisoners did not relish this disposal of their cases, and inquired anxiously if they could not be bailed or kept in a hotel. Gen. Craig informed the Court that witnesses from Havana would be present on Friday. The interpreter repeated that the prisoners would not deny the robbery, to which Judge McCue answered that he could only take the plea of guilty but could not act on it. They would have to wait for the Grand Jury. The prisoners then besought permission to be kept with their "wives," and were very anxious that they should not be sent back to Spain or Cuba. Alvarez was then formally examined, and stated that he was 29 years of age, and was born in Granada, Spain; that he was recently a resident of Havana, and a merchant. He did not think that he had committed a robbery. It was, he said, simply an abstraction of certificates of shares from a bank. Gen. Craig explained that the prisoner had taken 149 certificates, from which they realized $40,000 by selling them at a discount of 30 per cent. Caceres was next examined, and stated that he was aged 28, and had been born in Seville; had been employed by the Government in Havana, and all he had to do with the robbery was to act as broker for Alvarez, who had the certificates for sale. The counsel for the bank informed the court that Alvarez was secretary of the bank, and that he gave the certificates to Caceres, who sold them to brokers in Havana. These brokers would take the certificates to the bank to see if they were all right, and Alvarez would say that they were good: then the brokers would pay Caceres for them. Alvarez stated that the women had nothing to do with the robbery, and the court discharged them. They were removed to a boarding-house in New-York, and will be taken care of by the Spanish Consul. Alvarez and Caceres were then committed to the Raymond-st. Jail.

THE WATER-METER CLAIMS.

ACRIMONIOUS DEBATE BETWEEN COUNSEL.

James C. Carter, counsel for the Controller, was to have moved, yesterday, in the Supreme Court, to quash the mandamus granted by Judge Fancher in the suit of Novarro against the City Controller for over $250,000, payment for water-meters supplied to the Department of Public Works; but on the case being called, the counsel informed Judge Pratt that his lost brief and returns to the writ had not been recovered, and he was unable to go on without a postponement. Abraham R. Lawrence, who was associated with Mr. Vanderpoel as counsel for the relator, addressing the Court, commented bitterly on the delays interposed. He said that the motion for a mandamus was made in February, and was postponed again and again on the application of the Controller's counsel, until at last in June, Judge Fancher directed a writ to issue, and the return to be made June 20. But an *ex parte* order was made by Judge Ingraham, extending the time into July. Ever since February they have been trying to get the facts on which he relies from the Controller; and now his counsel suggests a motion to quash the writ. Surely the gentleman could argue that without a brief? He certainly would be able to prepare one in an hour. It was trifling with the relator and the Court to make these numerous applications. In conclusion, counsel generously offered to lend a brief and any other papers he could spare to his learned brother.

Mr. Carter—This is my motion, and it involves the preparation of a long brief.

Judge Pratt—Why cannot all the defenses be made on the return?

Mr. Carter—So they can; but I thought it was so clear that a mandamus did not lie, that it was useless to enter upon the trial of questions of fact. One of the most sin-